

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

held at the Council House, Nottingham,

on Monday 13 October 2008 at 3.00 pm

ATTENDANCES

| ✓ Councillor G Khan | | Lord Mayor |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| ✓ Councillor Ahmed | | Councillor A Khan |
| ✓ Councillor Akhtar | | Councillor Klein |
| ✓ Councillor Arnold | ✓ | Councillor Lee |
| ✓ Councillor Aslam | ✓ | Councillor Liversidge |
| ✓ Councillor Benson | ✓ | Councillor Long |
| ✓ Councillor Bryan | ✓ | Councillor MacLennan |
| ✓ Councillor Bull | ✓ | Councillor Malcolm |
| ✓ Councillor Campbell | ✓ | Councillor Marshall |
| ✓ Councillor Chapman | ✓ | Councillor Mellen |
| ✓ Councillor Clark | ✓ | Councillor Mir |
| ✓ Councillor Clarke-Smith | ✓ | Councillor Morley |
| ✓ Councillor Collins | ✓ | Councillor Munir |
| Councillor Cresswell | ✓ | Councillor Newton |
| ✓ Councillor Culley | ✓ | Councillor Oldham |
| ✓ Councillor Davie | ✓ | Councillor Packer |
| ✓ Councillor Dewinton | ✓ | Councillor Parbutt |
| ✓ Councillor Edwards | ✓ | Councillor Price |
| ✓ Councillor Foster | ✓ | Councillor Smith |
| ✓ Councillor Gibson | ✓ | Councillor Spencer |
| ✓ Councillor Griggs | ✓ | Councillor Sutton |
| ✓ Councillor Grocock | ✓ | Councillor Trimble |
| ✓ Councillor Hartshorne | ✓ | Councillor Unczur |
| Councillor Heppell | ✓ | Councillor Urquhart |
| ✓ Councillor Ibrahim | ✓ | Councillor Watson |
| ✓ Councillor James | ✓ | Councillor Wildgust |
| ✓ Councillor Johnson | ✓ | Councillor Williams |
| ✓ Councillor Jones | ✓ | Councillor Wood |

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

47 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Public Petitions

Councillor Spencer submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor, on behalf of a group of 33 residents who wanted to complain about the state of the back of their complex at Hamilton Court and behind the old Co-op on Varney Road. The group requested that the area be tidied up and for the uneven paving be investigated.

Councillor Bryan submitted a petition to the Lord Mayor, on behalf of 355 Nottingham residents and Mr Nahal who had a convenience store at the back of Bentinck School. The residents objected to the proposed closure of the Bentinck Park gates by the Headteacher during the evening and weekends as the facilities provided a safe playing environment for the local children and community members to access after school. A consultation period was in operation until 22 October, where residents could comment on the proposed action. The residents requested the Council to intervene, as they felt that such action by the school would devastate the local community.

48 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2008, be confirmed and signed by the Lord Mayor.

49 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Chief Executive announced the following awards:

Nottingham had recently been crowned gold medal winners in Britain in Bloom Champion of Champions 2008 and won a second gold medal in Champion of Champions East Midlands in Bloom 2008.

Eight projects across the City had received Green Flag Awards, the national standard for parks and green spaces, compared to four last

year. The winners were Bulwell Bogs, Sandy Banks Nature Reserve, Strelley Recreation Ground, Arboretum, Woodthorpe Grange, Victoria Park and St Marys rest Garden, Martins Pond Nature Reserve and Lenton Recreation Ground.

Jim Mason of Children's Services was highly commended for 'Best Project Leadership' for his work in Building Schools for the Future at the 4ps Awards for Excellence in Local Government.

A group of officers from across the Council participated in the LGC Challenge and came fifteenth out of sixty six councils. They were also the winners of the 'Most Politically Sensitive' award at a ceremony in Birmingham.

Congratulations were given to Djanogly City Academy, Manning Comprehensive School, Middleton Primary and Nursery School and St Marys Catholic Primary School who received a Department for Children, Schools and Families International School Awards, a charter mark for developing sustained links with schools abroad. Nottingham was still one of the leading authorities in the UK for promoting International understanding in Schools, and Bev Milner from Children's Services deserved recognition for her role in co-ordinating the entire programme for the City Council.

The Children's Services music team based at College Street helped Snapewood Primary School achieve the platinum Sing Up award, one of only eighteen schools in England and Wales. Sing-Up was the national programme to re-kindle singing as a regular activity in schools. Schools could work towards silver and gold standard awards, but the platinum award is by nomination and is reserved for those schools where singing was an everyday integral part of the schools life.

Traffic and Parking Services won an award from the institute of Civil Engineers in the Studies and Research Category for the 'Bare Bones Project', a joint initiative with the County Council and Police to encourage the use of protective clothing to reduce casualties and injuries associated with young moped and motor scooter riders.

Human Resources were awarded an Investors in People Award in June, for Recruitment and Selection, the assessors being particularly impressed with the recruitment training for managers and the alternative

approaches to recruitment, which helped to address social exclusion and encourage more inclusion.

All those involved in the awards were congratulated on their efforts being recognised and thanked for their continuing hard work.

Honorary Alderman Len Squires

Council were also informed of the death of Honorary Alderman Len Squires on Thursday 11 September 2008, aged 84 years.

Honorary Alderman Squires worked at John Player and Sons for 34 years. He held the office of Sheriff of Nottingham in 1974/75 and was elected to Nottingham City Council for Wollaton in 1962 and then to Broxtowe in 1968. He served on the Education Committee and Public Protection Committee and was Chairman of the Water Committee, Derwent Valley Water Board and the Board of Governors of Peveril School. He spent five years in the Royal Artillery between 1942 and 1947. He became a Magistrate in July 1973.

He was remembered by family and friends as someone who was kind and caring with a wonderful sense of humour and admired for his honesty and integrity. He left behind his daughter, Linda.

Jimmy Ashworth

Council were also informed of the death on Friday 26 September 2008 of Jimmy Ashworth, aged 61. Jimmy who was the Managing Director of the Royal Centre Nottingham, had given 31 years loyal service to Nottingham City Council, moving to Nottingham in 1977 as Technical Manager at the Theatre Royal. During his time at the venue he became Operations Director at the Royal Centre, working under both Barrie Stead and Michael Grayson and for the past six years had run the venue as Managing Director. Jimmy was a much loved colleague and friend to everyone at the Royal Centre Nottingham, most of whom had worked alongside him for many years.

Prior to his arrival in Nottingham, Jimmy worked at the Royal Court Theatre in Liverpool and the Oxford Apollo as Chief Electrician and toured to many of the leading venues across the UK and Canada as Technical Manager, working with some of the biggest acts in the business at that time.

In the last few years Jimmy was instrumental in taking the Royal Centre to a new level, both in terms of broadening the range of entertainment on offer and in making both the Theatre Royal and the Royal Concert Hall more accessible to everyone in the local community. Jimmy also initiated the 'adopt a school' scheme at the Royal Centre in 1999, and was a great supporter of Aspley Wood Special School in Nottingham.

His innovative use of the Royal Concert Hall saw musicals playing to sell-out audiences and ensured that record levels of business were achieved at a time when other venues were struggling to maintain their audience levels. He was also committed to ensuring that both venues remained at the forefront of the entertainment industry and his plans for developing the Royal Centre over the next 25 years would live on as his legacy.

He was a very popular figure within the entertainment industry, not only as a highly respected practitioner whose professional expertise and advice was sought by many venue managers, but also for his easy-going and immensely likeable nature which made him so well-liked by the many producers and artists who visited the venue.

Jimmy would be greatly missed by all who worked with him. Jimmy is survived by his wife Diane and their two children Paul and Emma.

Jimmy Sirrel

Council were also informed of the death of Jimmy Sirrel on 25 September 2008, aged 86. The former Notts County manager guided the club into the top flight of English football in 1981, in the second of his three spells in charge at Meadow Lane, where the club subsequently named a grandstand in his honour.

As a youngster, Jimmy spent three years at Celtic, between 1946 and 1949, then crossed the border to England, playing two seasons at Brighton, three at Bradford Park Avenue and another three at Aldershot, before finding his way to Brentford, where he was eventually appointed manager in 1967, leaving them in November 1969 for Notts County.

Jimmy is survived by a son, David, and a daughter, Audrey.

The Council stood in silence in tribute to their memories.

50 QUESTIONS

Icelandic Bank Deposits

Councillor Newton asked the following question of the Deputy Leader of the Council:-

Would the Deputy Leader update the Council on the position with the Authority's Icelandic Bank Deposits?

Councillor Chapman replied as follows:-

Thank you, Lord Mayor and may I thank Councillor Newton for his question.

During 2007/08, a number of Icelandic banks, Kaupthing Singer Friedlander, Glitnir, Landsbanki and Heritable (a separate bank, with Landsbanki as its parent company) had credit ratings which enabled them to be included on the City Council's approved counterparty list. 45 Investments totalling £181m were transacted during the year.

As a consequence of the difficulties in financial markets and the ongoing credit crunch, full Council approved revisions to our investment strategy in March 2008 and again in June 2008, these revisions reduced the maximum sums and periods for many counter parties and removed some from the list. The June removals for new deposits included Kaupthing, Sinder Friedlander and Glitnir. This was based on the prevailing credit rating information. Two deposits for Glitnir were placed before the change in their credit rating and these are still outstanding. Landsbanki and its subsidiaries retained its officially high credit rating F1 and A to remain on the counterparty list. However, deposits had been placed with Glitnir before the change in their credit rating and these were still outstanding. Landsbanki and Heritable were at the time both graded F1 and A. Interestingly, this was the same rating as our own bankers, the Co-operative had at the time.

Currently the City Council has £41.6 million placed with Icelandic Banks. All of these deals are fixed rate, fixed period deposits. Most of these are due back in the first half of 2009. We have £3.3 million

due back on 21 November and another £6 million due back on 28 November. The total interest due on the investment is £2.8 million, of this, £0.6 million relates to 2007/08 and was accrued into that financial year. £2 million relates to 2008/09 and £0.2 million relates to 2009/10. All the interest is due to be paid on maturity of the investments, so none of it had been received to date.

We have not placed fresh business with Icelandic Banks since mid-September. Only British and Irish banks are currently being used to deposit Council finance.

The impact of this on the City Council and in the short-term, is small as our needs for immediate access to cash is less than £41.6 million and this can be managed through our usual treasury management activities. The immediate impact will be a reduction in the level of investment interest which is above budgeted levels in any case.

In the medium term when we get to the point of needing the £41.6 million cash to fund withdrawal reserves, grants, or the Capital Programme, we would have to use Prudential borrowing to cover the shortfall caused by the problem. We may need to obtain additional permissions to borrow from Central Government if this exceeds our current authorised level. Due to ongoing financial management and prudence there is not currently expected to be an adverse impact on the taxpayer. It is important to acknowledge that this is the result of global phenomenon that has impacted on business, private individuals and the public sector alike.

Nottingham City Council's financial and risk management processes have enabled some minimisation of the adverse exposure. What efforts are being made to recover the £41.6 million you'll no doubt be asking? We are actively working with the Local Government Association and in particular Margaret Eaton, who is the current Leader of the Local Government Association, to lobby Government for early resolution of this issue. For those Authorities facing severe short term difficulties the Government and the Local Government Association will agree an appropriate set of ways to assist. A judgment will be made on a case by case basis but in previous situations support has included helping Local Authorities restructure their financial priorities, providing additional expertise and capitalisation of expenditure.

We have provided a response to this explaining that although the £41.6 million will not impact immediately on services in the longer term there will be some loss of interest and we will be looking for support towards this.

I reiterate that we have over the last five years accrued £20 million in interest gained through loans which we have a duty to make. I would also point out that the Government has frozen the assets, of Heritable in particular, and we do expect to get some return from those assets once they are realised. It may take some time, we are going to have to be patient, but we do expect to get some of the money back.

Thank you for your patience.

51 ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED that the order of business be varied so that the report on appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers and then the urgent item of business on the appointment of Interim Corporate Director of Children's Services be considered prior to the debate on the 2030 Vision.

52 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS (DEROs)

The report of Councillor Chapman (as set out on page 188 of the agenda) was submitted and its recommendations was moved by Councillor Chapman and seconded by Councillor Collins.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Chapman, seconded by Councillor Collins, that:-

- (1) the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, or successor in title, be appointed Deputy Electoral Registration Officer to perform and exercise any and all of the Deputy Chief Executive's current duties and powers as Electoral Registration Officer, including adjudicating upon hearings and appeals to objections and reviews of entries to the Register of Electors;**

- (2) the Head of Democratic Services and Legal Services Managers, or successors in title, be appointed DEROs to determine objections and reviews, including adjudicating upon hearings and appeals to objections and reviews of entries to the Register of Electors;
- (3) the Electoral Registration Officer and her deputy with full powers above be authorised to appoint additional DEROs as necessary.

53 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES

The Lord Mayor was of the opinion that this matter, although not included on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency in accordance with paragraph 100(b)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the special circumstances that the appointment needed to be confirmed as soon as possible.

The report of Councillor Ahmed was submitted and its recommendations were moved by Councillor Ahmed and seconded by Councillor Campbell.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Ahmed, seconded by Councillor Campbell, that the City Council accepts the Appointments and Conditions of Service Committee's recommendation and offers the post of Interim Corporate Director of Children's Services to Ian Curryer on the terms and conditions approved by the Committee.

54 NOTTINGHAM'S VISION FOR 2030 AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The report of Councillor Collins (as set out on page 176 of the agenda) was submitted and its recommendations were moved by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Chapman.

Workshops had taken place prior to the Council debate where external representatives discussed the developing 2030 Vision. A summary of the main issues had been circulated to all Councillors in the Chamber.

Following the report being moved and seconded, outside representatives addressed Council before the debate commenced.

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Chapman, that members early views on the development of the Vision and key issues identified be used to inform the Sustainable Community Strategy and be provided by way of a transcript from the meeting.

55 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

RESOLVED that the following in year changes to committee memberships be noted:-

- (i) the appointment of Councillor Price as a member of the Audit Committee;**
- (ii) the appointment of Councillor Morley as a member of the Development Control Committee;**
- (iii) the resignation of Councillor Price as a member of the Joint Planning and Transportation Committee and the appointment of Councillor Foster as his replacement;**
- (iv) the appointment of Councillor Culley as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
- (v) the appointment of Councillor Clarke-Smith as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Call-in Sub Committee;**
- (vi) the resignation of Councillor Clarke-Smith as a member of the Young Nottingham Select Committee and the appointment of Councillor Morley as his replacement.**

The meeting closed at 6.40pm.

Council Question requiring a written response

The following response was circulated to all members on 4 November 2008.

Councillor Spencer asked the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Area Working:-

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm that Nottingham City Transport is looking into the possibility of increased capacity for morning services from Wilford Village? Can the Portfolio Holder give any timescale for these changes?

Councillor Urquhart replied as follows:

The Locallink 1 service is entirely supported by the City Council and is operated under tender by Nottingham Community Transport, using a 13-seater low floor accessible minibus purchased by the City Council. Its small size enables access into heavily parked narrow streets and has lower running costs than a larger minibus.

The service runs hourly from 0930 to 1600hrs. We are well aware that the first scheduled bus sometimes has insufficient capacity at Wilford Village. There are no issues at other times of the day. This has eased slightly since some residents within walking distance of Wilford Green now use Locallink 2, Shoplink 1 and mainline NCT services.

We have insufficient funds or buses to run a duplicate at this time. Our current position is to look to increase the bus size by using a larger 18 seater (+ 4 standing) minibus transferred from the Medilink service. This has the same running cost and accessibility as the current bus used on Locallink 2. The Medilink service awaits delivery of two larger minibuses to cater for passenger growth, funded through this year's Local Transport Plan. It is currently planned that this cascade should take place early in 2009.